

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A semi-solid composition for use in single-dose form in personal oral, dental, or skin care, the composition comprising:

a gelling agent comprising agar; and

an active ingredient intimately mixed with said gelling agent,

wherein said gelling agent and said active ingredient are intimately mixed and form a homogeneous and non-encapsulated single-dose gel bead ~~including~~ comprising between ~~0.5 and 1.2~~ 0.1 to about 2 percent agar by weight, the active ingredient, and water between 32% to 35% by weight,

wherein the gel bead has a mass between 0.25 and 2.0 grams,

wherein the gel bead has a compact, stable shape, and

wherein ~~the gelling agent of the gel bead has a gel framework formed about the active ingredient,~~ the gelling agent ~~of the gel framework having~~ has a concentration such that the ~~gel framework~~ gelling agent will break apart and release the active ingredient when the gel bead is disrupted

by a person in a personal oral, dental, or skin care procedure.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gelling agent includes agar at a concentration in a range of from about ~~0.1 to about 2~~ 0.5 and 1.2 per cent by weight.

4. (previously presented) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gelling agent comprises agar at a concentration in a range of from about 0.3 to about 0.95 per cent by weight.

5-6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active ingredient is a dentifrice sufficient for a single dental care procedure, the ~~gel framework~~ gelling agent having a concentration such that the ~~gel framework~~ gelling agent will be disrupted by ~~any of~~ the mouth of the person ~~and~~ against a toothbrush before a brushing procedure begins.

8. (previously presented) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 7, wherein the bead has a mass in the range of from about 0.4 gram to about 1 gram.

9. (canceled)

10. (withdrawn) A kit or pack for use in personal care, including at least one bead of a semi-solid gel as claimed in claim 7, wherein the bead is stored within a compartment within the kit or pack, the compartment comprising a depression formed in a deformable sheet, and covering means for covering the depression.

11. (withdrawn) The kit or pack for use in personal care as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pack further provides an application tool including means for contacting a plurality of surfaces of the person's teeth, so that after disruption of a bead and release of the at least one active ingredient adjacent to the teeth, use of the tool promotes cleansing of the teeth.

12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active ingredient comprises an oral disinfectant.

14-17. (canceled)

18. (withdrawn) A kit or pack for use in personal care, comprising:

at least one bead having a semi-solid composition as recited in claim 1;

at least one application tool; and

a blister pack,

wherein the bead and the application tool are contained within corresponding cavities within the blister pack.

19-22. (canceled)

23. (currently amended) A semi-solid homogeneous gel bead for use in single-dose form in personal oral, dental or skin care, comprising:

a gelling agent comprising water at between 13.9% and 43.1% by weight; and

an active ingredient intimately mixed with said gelling agent to form a mixed homogeneous composition of said gelling agent and said active ingredient,

wherein said gelling agent ~~having~~ has a gel framework containing the active ingredient,

wherein the gelling agent has a concentration such that the gel framework of the gelling agent has a semi-solid state, and such that the gelling agent will break apart and release said active ingredient upon being forcibly disrupted by a person in any of an oral, dental, or skin care procedure, and

wherein the gelling framework, in the semi-solid state, is formed as a bead.

24. (previously presented) The semi-solid bead as claimed in claim 23, wherein said gelling agent includes agar at a concentration ranging between 0.1% by weight to 2% by weight.

25. (previously presented) The semi-solid bead as claimed in claim 23, wherein said gelling agent includes agar at a concentration ranging between 0.3% by weight to 0.95% by weight.

26. (previously presented) The semi-solid bead as claimed in claim 24, wherein said gelling agent further includes gelatin at a concentration ranging between 1% by weight to 4% by weight.

27. (previously presented) The semi-solid bead as claimed in claim 23, wherein the composition has a mass ranging between 0.4 grams to 1 gram.

28. (previously presented) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the gelling agent includes agar at a concentration in a range of from about 0.7 to about 0.9 per cent by weight.

29. (withdrawn) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active ingredient comprises a skin care product.

30. (canceled)

31. (withdrawn) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bead is formed by the steps of:

fully dissolving a mixture comprising the agar and the active ingredient in hot water at a first temperature of

about 95-100 degrees Celsius, the active ingredient being capable of withstanding the first temperature;

cooling the mixture;

adding additional active ingredients inherently unstable at the first temperature;

dispensing the mixture having a molten state in controlled single dose quantities; and

further cooling the mixture to become a semi-solid gel.

32-34. (canceled)

35. (new) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 23, wherein the composition of the gelling agent comprises water at between 19.6% and 39.5% by weight.

36. (new) The semi-solid composition as claimed in claim 23, wherein the composition of the gelling agent comprises water at between 32.1% and 34.5% by weight.